

reference antibiotic to form a complex with the recognition agent which is not complexed with the antibiotic or antibiotics in the biological fluid, and

(c) detecting the antibiotic or antibiotics by determining the amount of the recognition agent complexed to the immobilized reference antibiotic in step (b),

wherein the recognition agent comprises a receptor which specifically binds to antibiotics containing a β -lactam ring and is obtained from *Bacillus licheniformis*,

wherein the amount of the recognition agent which has been complexed in step (b) with the reference antibiotic is inversely proportional to the amount of the antibiotic or antibiotics present in the biological fluid, and

wherein the antibiotic or antibiotics are detected in 5 minutes or less.

13 28. (Amended) The process according to claim 16, wherein the antibiotic or antibiotics are detected in 3 minutes.